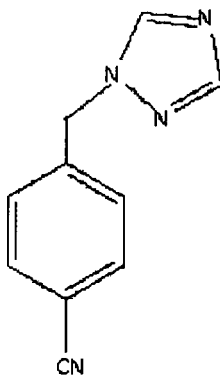


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

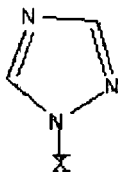
1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing 4-(1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethyl)benzonitrile of Formula (Structure 2),



Structure 2

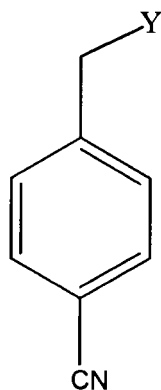
the process comprising:

reacting a salt of 1,2,4-triazole of Formula (Structure 4)



Structure 4

with α -halo substituted tolunitrile of Formula (Structure 3)

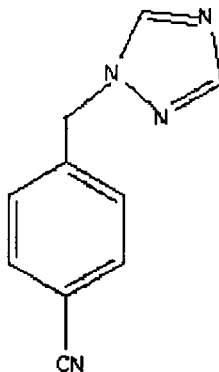


Structure 3

in the presence of a suitable solvent, wherein the reaction is carried out by charging in the solvent followed by addition of a salt of 1,2,4-triazole of Formula (Structure 4) at 25-30°C, adding a solution of α -halo substituted tolunitrile of Formula (Structure 3) in the solvent at 10°C; stirring the same for 2 hours at 10 to 15°C; adding demineralized water and extracting with dichloromethane; distilling out the organic layer; crystallizing the same using a crystallizing agent to obtain 4-(1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethyl)benzonitrile of Formula (Structure 2).

2. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein X represents an alkali metal selected from a group comprising Li, Na, or K.
3. (Original) The process according to claim 2, wherein X represents Na.
4. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein Y represents a halogen selected from Cl, Br or I.
5. (Original) The process according to claim 4, wherein Y represents Br.

6. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the suitable solvent is tetrahydrofurane or dimethylformamide.
7. (Original) The process according to claim 6 wherein the preferred solvent is dimethylformamide.
8. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the crystallizing agent is an organic solvent selected from a group comprising isopropyl alcohol, toluene or diisopropyl ether.
9. (Original) The process according to claim 8, wherein the preferred organic solvent is diisopropyl ether.
10. (Currently Amended) A process for producing 4-(1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethyl)benzonitrile of Formula (Structure 2),



Structure 2

the process comprising:

charging dimethylformamide followed by addition of sodium salt of 1,2,4 triazole at 25-30°C;

adding a solution of α -bromo-4-tolunitrile in dimethylformamide at 10°C;

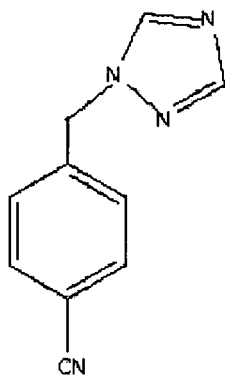
stirring the same for 2 hours at 10 to 15°C;

adding demineralized water and extracting with dichloromethane;

distilling out the organic layer; and

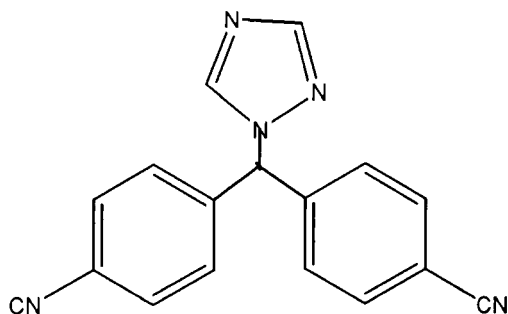
crystallizing the same in diisopropyl ether to obtain 4-(1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethyl)benzonitrile of Formula (Structure 2).

11. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 10 further comprising:
reacting 4-(1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethyl)benzonitrile of Formula (Structure 2),



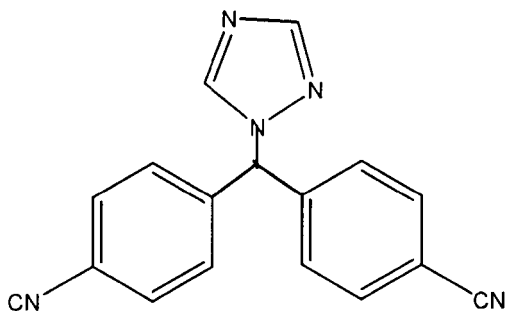
Structure 2

with 4-fluorobenzonitrile and potassium tertiary butoxide to produce 4,4'-[1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethylene]bisbenzonitrile of Formula (Structure 1)



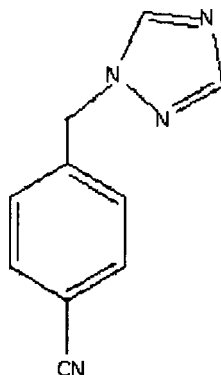
Structure 1

12. (Withdrawn) A process for producing 4,4'-[1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethylene]bisbenzonitrile of Formula (Structure 1),



Structure 1

the process comprising reacting 4-(1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethyl)benzonitrile of Formula (Structure 2)



produced according to the processes recited in any of claims 1 through to 11, the process comprising, reacting 4-(1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethyl)benzonitrile of Formula (Structure 2) with 4-fluorobenzonitrile and potassium tertiary butoxide to produce 4,4'-[1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethylene]bisbenzonitrile (Letrozole) of Formula (Structure 1).